

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6 and 8 are pending. Claims 5, 6 and 8 are subject to an election of species. Claim 8, added in the Amendment dated December 11, 2002, is further explained herein. Several minor errors in claim 5 are herein corrected. A marked-up version showing the changes made by the present amendment is attached hereto, captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Election of Species

Claims 5, 6 and 8 are subject to an election of species requirement. In response thereto, Applicants herein elect the species containing a styrene-divinyl benzene copolymer for initial examination. Applicants understand that if this species is found allowable, the Examiner will then examine the claims with respect to the remaining species.

Clarification of Claim 8

The Examiner asserts that the patentable distinctions of claim 8, added in the Amendment dated December 12, 2002, were not sufficiently explained.

Applicants herein note that claim 8 recites a process for cleansing endogenous cannabinoid from a body fluid, comprising the steps of: providing an adsorbent for endogenous cannabinoid comprising a water-insoluble material containing a substance whose solubility parameter δ is at most 12 ((cal/cm³)^{1/2}); removing body fluid from a living body; contacting said adsorbent with said body fluid; and returning said body fluid to said body.

Response to Election Requirement
Fumiyasu **HIRAI** et al.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/961,265**
Attorney Docket No. **011284**

Applicants note that the invention of claim 8 recites a method of removing and filtering cannabinoids from a body fluid, *followed by returning the body fluid to the body*. None of the cited references appear are directed to such a method of removing or filtering cannabinoids from a body fluid, followed by returning the body fluid to the body. Such a method is not even remotely suggested by the references. Therefore, although claim 8 does not recite specific material, Applicants submit that claim 8 contains patentable limitations.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Twice amended) A process for adsorbing and removing endogenous cannabinoid comprising a step **for of** contacting an adsorbent for endogenous cannabinoid comprising a water-insoluble material containing a substance whose solubility parameter δ is at most 12 ((cal/cm³)^{1/2}) with fluid containing endogenous cannabinoid, wherein the substance whose solubility parameter δ is at most 12 ((cal/cm³)^{1/2}) is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, poly(methacrylate ester), poly(acrylate ester), poly (vinyl chloride), polystyrene, a styrene-divinyl benzene copolymer, nylon 6, nylon 66, polytetrafluoroethylene, polysulfone and polyurethane.

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